Meteors, eclipse will highlight December skies

December has several highlights in 1991.

Two metieor showers, one of which is the among the year a best.

Mercury puts in its best appearance for 1991 in the morning faky,

A partial eclipse of the moon. The amount of sunlight we receive really bottoms out this month. See the part of the sky again at the end of the month of the part of the sky again at the end of the moon and 19 mm. The amount of sunlight we receive really bottoms out this month. The amount of sunlight we receive really bottoms out this month, and 19 mm. The afform on month of the moon on the morning of the 3rd the solid partial services of the services of the services of the solid partial services of the solid partial services of the servic



el gen YOU be), which means "the Southern Claw."

ORIGINALLY THIS STAR was part of Scorplus the scorplon, the neighboring constellation to the left, but the Scorplon's claws were severed in antiquity and Zuben el Genubl ended up in a new pattern that was called Libra. Venus will pass above Alpha Librae in two wecks.

that was called Libra, venus manages above Alpha Librae in two weeks.

New Moon occurs at 10:56 p.m. on Dec. 5. The moon is located between the earth and the sum and is not visible. It will appear in the evening sky in just two days.

The planet Mercury is located at inferior conjunction on the 8th. It is located between the earth and the

sun and is not visible. Mercury becomes a morning object and will be very well placed for viewing in eight days.

Saturn is easy to identify on the evening of the 9th; it's the "star" six degrees to the left of the crescent moon. On the following night the moon is six degrees above and to the left of Saturn.

One of the year's best meteor showers, the Geminds (GEM in ids), reaches its peak on the morning of Dec. 14. Meteor showers are named for the constellation from which

Although temperatures have al-ready dropped, Detroit Zoo visitors will keep warm during the colder months as they stop by the zoo's many heated, indoor exhibits. With just a short walk between them, the Reptile House, the Bird House and the Pengulaarium are all climate-controlled exhibits. In addi-tion, the Chimps of Harambee exhib-

Winter hours for Detroit Zoo

Gemini.

Meteors are more commonly known as "falling stars" because they look like little stars falling from the sky. Some American Indians thought they were stars running from danger. But they have nothing to do with stars; meteors are rocks falling out of the sky.

to do with stars, meteors are rocks falling out of the stars, meteors are rocks falling out of the stars are rocks. The stars are rocks are rocks are rocks are rocks are rocks are rocks. The rock of the stars are rocks falls into our atmosphere it heats up because of friction, burns and gives off light. A patient skywatcher can expect to see a few sporadle (occasional) meteors any clear night.

Many of these meteors are orbiting around the sun in well-defined orbits. They may be trailing along as the debris of a comet, or they may be the remains of a comet that distintegrated long ago. When the earth

it, the Barnyard and the Lion, Ele-phant and Hippo houses have indoor viewing.

The Detroit Zoo is at Woodward and 10 Mile Road in Royal Oak, Winter zoo hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. The new schedule began Nov. 1. For more information, call 313-398-0900.

they appear to radiate, in this case Gernini.

Meteors are more commonly musual can be seen, and we can known as "falling stars" because predict precisely when that happens.

usual can be seen, and we can be usual can be seen, and we have predict precisely when that happens.

THE GEMINID SWARM is one of the best. A pullent observer can espect to see an average of 50 meteors every hour, which is about one every minute. The best meteor display occurs between 2 am. and sunrise. Germini rises in the east northeast a round 7 pm., is nearly overhead at 2 ann. and has moved to the west a northeast by sunrise. Although the Germinids can appear in any part of the contract of the seen o THE GEMINID SWARM is one of



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Detroit Council of the Arts 224-2053

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NOFI NIGHT

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3: Each site offers a unique experience you won't forget. 3: Kwanzaa Celebration at the Museum of African American History. 3: An old fashioned Christmas at the Historical Museum. 3: Choirs, carriage rides, face painting and much more.

December 4 6 - 9:30 p.m. Detroit Cultural Center

University Cultural Center Association 577-5088

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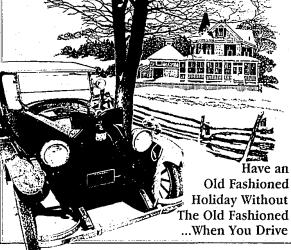
Don't forget to lend a hand to those in need this holiday season. Bring a canned lood donation to the nearest betruit police precinct, fire station, or Cobo Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week. Or, drop your donation off at any Neighborhood City Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

24-Hour Hotline 267-6823

SEASONS GREETINGS

From the City of Detroit COLEMAN A. YOUNG, MAYOR





Make this holiday one you can look back on with fond memories.

Don't Drink and Drive

This holiday season. The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the automotive dealerships in our area are working together with Mothers Against Drunk Drung to help change the meaning of Tie One On.

Tying a red ribbon to your vehicle's door handle, sideview mirror or antenna seems a simple thing, but it serves as an instant reminder that if you drink, please don't drive.

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